



Russell Soccer Club **Representative Program Assessment & Tryout Process**

IMPORTANT UPDATE- The Russell Soccer Club has adjusted its Representative program assessment process to ensure alignment with the new [Grassroots Standards](http://canadasoccer.com) (canadasoccer.com 2026) from Canada Soccer.

These new national standards are being adopted across Canada to elevate the player experience. The standards offer a quality development pathway by emphasizing age-appropriate development, increased ball contact, and an environment that supports learning, confidence, and enjoyment. There will be changes to game formats, field dimensions, team structures, and player groupings.

Thank you for your continued support as we implement these improvements and work to provide the best possible soccer experience for our players. Additional details will be shared with each age group before the season begins.

Players who wish to be considered for a Representative team must complete the online registration BEFORE the first assessment/try-out session.

COMPETITIVE ASSESSMENTS (U8 - U13)

All players registering for the Representative Raiders U8 - U13 program will ultimately be placed within their age group's *player pool*. Each registering player will participate in Competitive Assessments. The purpose of these sessions is to provide a fair and consistent evaluation of all players to group them using a *balanced approach** (for U8-U10) or a *streamed approach*** (for U11-13) in accordance with Canada Soccer.

**Balanced: Players are placed on teams with other players of varying ability, to create teams of similar quality*

***Streamed: Players are evaluated and placed on teams with other players of similar ability*

Multiple sessions are scheduled to provide equal opportunity for players to demonstrate their abilities and in an effort to minimize their stress (unlike the traditional "tryout" format). Assessments will focus on technical skills, decision-making, body awareness, and overall attitude/effort. All players will receive a *Placement Letter* within 7 days of their final Competitive Assessment. *Placement Letters* will inform players of their new respective teams.

Our ultimate goal is to support player growth and their love for soccer through a transparent and player-first process.

COMPETITIVE TRYOUTS (U14+)

All players registering for the Representative Raiders U14+ program will participate in Competitive Tryouts. The purpose of these sessions is to provide a fair and consistent evaluation of all players to place them on their respective teams.

Multiple sessions are scheduled to provide equal opportunity for players to demonstrate their abilities and in an effort to minimize their stress. Evaluations are completed by RSC assessors to ensure a fair and non-bias process. Assessments will focus on technical skills, decision-making, body awareness, and overall attitude/effort through technical and tactical exercises and small-sided games.



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COMPETITIVE TRYOUTS (U14+) continued...

All players will receive a *Placement Letter* within 7 days of the final Competitive Tryout sessions via email. *Placement Letters* will either inform players of their acceptance to a Representative Raiders team or provide guidance for alternative avenues for development.

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EVALUATION FORMAT

Each session will consist of two components: evaluating the players' individual skills (dribbling, passing, ball control, etc.) and assessing these skills under pressure against opposition in a small-sided game.

- Players must attend the assessments for their own age group; exceptions require approval of the Club Head Coach and rank in the top 5 spots of the proposed higher age group.
- The Club will assign assessor(s) for each age group who will formally evaluate players using a Club approved assessment tool. The team Head Coach may be present to facilitate sessions but will not formally evaluate their own age group/team.
- For Representative Raiders U14+ teams:
 - If an age group has more players than the roster allows for, the evaluation scores will be used to form the base of the team. The first 11 players will be chosen by the Club based on evaluation scores. The team Head Coach will choose their remaining squad.
 - In consultation with the Club Head Coach and Director of Representative Programming, the team Head Coach may decline to select a player if the selection would not be in the best interest of the team, including considerations related to roster balance, positional requirements, and demonstrated commitment and coachability.
- Any player not selected for a specific team in the Representative program will be automatically offered an opportunity to continue their development in the Recreational Program and may be added to the Rep *player pool* (U9-U13) or considered as a Rep *call-up* (U14+) as needed throughout the season.

TEAM ROSTER SIZES

Roster sizes will be established within the following ranges, in accordance with the C.S.G.S.:

- U8-U9: 8 to 12 players
- U10-U11: 10 to 14 players
- U12-U13: 14 to 18 players
- U14+: 16 to 20 players

Final roster sizes within these ranges will be determined by the Club and coaching staff based on team composition and positional requirements while maintaining developmentally appropriate participation for all players.